

REMARKS

The Examiner has allowed claims 1 through 3, 9, 12 through 24, 26 through 30, 35 and 38 through 51. In addition, the Examiner has objected to claims 4 through 8, 10, 11, 31 through 34, 36 and 37 and indicated allowable subject matter if written to overcome the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph. On the other hand, the Examiner has rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit the Examiner to reconsider the pending rejections.

Claim Objections and Section 112, Second Paragraph Rejections

The Examiner has objected to claims 4 through 8, 10, 11, 31 through 34, 36 and 37 and indicated allowable subject matter if written to overcome the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph. Although the Examiner indicated claims 3 through 8 in Paragraph 7 on page 5 of the Office Action for the same, since claim 3 has been allowed and the Office Action Summary indicates “4-8,” claim 3 is not considered under this section.

Accordingly, some of the objected claims have been amended to overcome the above objections and rejections. Claims 4, 5 and 8 have been amended so that the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter limitations that the inventor regards as the invention. In particular, since the Examiner has pointed out that “color image data” in claim 4 is ambiguous, claim 4 now explicitly recites the “color image data is in a RGB data format in said step b).” Similarly, claim 8 has been amended to recite “replacing said step c) and said step d)” so that the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter limitations that the inventor regards as the invention.

By the same token, claims 31 and 34 have been amended in a similar manner as described with respect to claims 4 and 8 so that the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter limitations that the inventor regards as the invention.

Other rejected claims depend from one of the above rejected claims. Since the above claims have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter limitations that the inventor regards as the invention, these claims now incorporate the same patentable features.

In view of these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of the above claims under 35 USC §112 should be withdrawn.

Section 112, First Paragraph Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph as the Examiner alleged that Figure 5 shows chroma value generation in step 130 is followed by smoothing in separate step 140. Thus, the Examiner concluded the amendment to claim 25 has introduced new matter.

Without necessarily agreeing with the Examiner's rejection basis, independent claim 25 has been amended to delete the second occurrence of "simultaneously" from the step o) and to add the word, "simultaneously" in the step p). Newly added subject matter limitation of independent claim 25 is supported by the original disclosure of the current application. For example, Figure 11 discloses the intensity estimation unit 430, which receives the input from the CCD data 400 and the reprocessor unit 410, which also receives the same input from the CCD data 400 so that the intensity estimation unit 430 and the reprocessor unit 410 simultaneously processes the data.

In view of these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of the above claim under 35 USC §112 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a favorable Office Action so indicating.

Respectfully submitted,

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